

**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL746147688US**

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1        1.        A method for performing database operations, the method comprising the steps of:  
2                reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more tables;  
3                assembling a query string from the first plurality of elements;  
4                and  
5                executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.
  
- 1        2.        The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of reading a first plurality of elements  
2                includes the sub-steps of:  
3                        reading a name of a second table from a first table; and  
4                        reading a plurality of arguments for the query string from the second table.
  
- 1        3.        The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the  
2                sub-step of assembling a query string that includes a first query language command and the plurality of  
3                arguments.
  
- 1        4.        The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of reading a first plurality of elements of a  
2                first query from the first set of one or more tables further includes the sub-step of reading one or more  
3                names corresponding to one or more source data tables from the first table.
  
- 1        5.        The method according to claim 4, wherein the sub-step of reading a plurality of arguments for  
2                the first query language command from the second table includes the sub-step of reading a plurality of  
3                names of columns of the one or more source data tables from the second table.

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1        6.        The method according to claim 5, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the  
2        sub-step of concatenating together a first plurality of elements that include the name of the one or more  
3        source data tables and the plurality of names of columns.

1        7.        The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of reading a second query  
2        language command from the first table.

1        8.        The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of reading a plurality of names  
2        of columns of a target data table from the second table.

1        9.        The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the  
2        sub-step of concatenating together a second plurality of elements that include the second query  
3        language command and the plurality of names of columns of the target data table.

1        10.       A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
2        reading a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more tables;  
3        assembling a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of elements  
4        and  
5        executing the data base table storage command string in order to modify a target data table.

1        11.       A method according to claim 10, wherein said storage command string is Structured Query  
2        Language UPDATE command string.

1        12.       A method according to claim 10, wherein said storage command string is Structured Query  
2        Language INSERT command string.

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1        13.     A method according to claim 10, wherein one or more tables in said second set of one or more  
2        tables is also in said first set of one or more tables.

1        14.     A method according to claim 10, wherein said second plurality of elements contain data used  
2        to specify the order in which data elements are to be stored.

1        15.     A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of executing said storage  
2        command string so as to cause all or a part of said source data set to be stored.

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**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL746147688US**

1 16. A machine-readable medium encoded with a program for performing database operations, said  
2 program containing instructions for performing the steps of:  
3 reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more tables;  
4 assembling a query string from the first plurality of elements;  
5 and  
6 executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

1 17. The computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the step of reading a plurality  
2 of elements includes the sub-steps of:  
3 reading a name of a second table from the first table;  
4 reading a plurality of arguments for the query language command from the second table;  
5 and  
6 executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

1 18. The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the step of assembling the  
2 query string includes the sub-step of assembling a query string that includes a first query language  
3 command and the plurality of arguments.

1 19. The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the step of reading a first  
2 plurality of elements of a first query from the first set of one or more tables further includes the sub-step  
3 of reading one or more names corresponding to one or more source data tables from the first table.

1 20. The computer readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the step of reading a plurality  
2 of arguments for the first query language command from the second table further includes the sub-step  
3 of reading a plurality of names of columns of the one or more source data tables from the second table.

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1 21. The computer readable medium according to claim 20, wherein the step of assembling the  
2 query string includes the sub-step of concatenating together a first plurality of elements that include the  
3 name of the one or more source data tables and the plurality of names of columns.

1 22. The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the program further contains  
2 instructions for performing the step of reading a second query language command from the first table.

1 23. The computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the step of reading a plurality  
2 of arguments for the query language command from the second table includes the sub-step of reading  
3 a plurality of names of columns of a target data table from the second table.

1 24. The computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the step of assembling the  
2 query string includes the sub-step of concatenating together a second plurality of elements that include  
the second query language command and the plurality of names of columns of the target data table.

1 25. The computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the program further contains  
2 instructions for performing the steps of:  
3 reading a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more tables;  
4 assembling a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of elements;  
5 and  
6 executing the data base table storage command to modify a target data table.

1 26. The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage command string  
2 is Structured Query Language UPDATE command string.

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1 27. The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage command string  
2 is Structured Query Language INSERT command string.

1 28. The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein one or more tables in said  
2 second set of one or more tables is also in said first set of one or more tables.

1 29. The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said second plurality of  
2 elements contain data used to specify the order in which data elements are to be stored.

1 30. The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the program further contains  
2 instructions for performing the step of executing said storage command string so as to cause all or a part  
3 of said source data set to be stored.

**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL746147688US**

1       31.    A data processing system comprising:  
2            a storage device for storing a relational database; and  
3            a processor programmed to:  
4                read a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more tables;  
5                assemble a query string from the first plurality of elements;  
6                and  
              execute the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

1       32.    A data processing system according to claim 31, wherein the processor is further programmed  
2       to:  
3            read a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more tables;  
4            assemble a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of elements;  
5            and  
6            execute the data base table storage command to modify a target data table.

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1        33.    A data processing system comprising:  
2                means for storing one or more data tables;  
3                means for reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more  
4        tables;  
5                means for assembling a query string from the first plurality of elements;  
6                and  
7                means for executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data  
8        tables.

1        34.    A data processing system according to claim 33, further comprising:  
2                means for reading a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more  
3        tables;  
4                means for assembling a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of  
5        elements;  
6                and  
7                means for executing the database table storage command to modify a target data table.



**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL746147688US**

- 1      35.    A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure including:  
2            a name of a first table that includes data to be processed; and  
3            a name of a second table that includes arguments to be used in composing a database  
4      command to process the data.
- 1      36.    The computer readable medium according to claim 35, wherein the data structure further  
2      includes identification of an SQL command to be used in processing the data.